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VISUAL STUDIES WORKSHOP ANNOUNCES NEW RESIDENCY PROGRAM FOR ROCHESTER-AREA PHOTOGRAPHERS

Rochester, NY (February 12, 2026) **Visual Studies Workshop** (VSW) announces open applications for its **new Regional Workspace Residency**. This residency program supports emerging photographers based in the Rochester, NY region, to help them expand their photographic practice and to provide professional development opportunities. Applications for this cycle open February 12 and close April 9, 2026.

Visual Studies Workshop is one of the earliest independent, not-for-profit, artist-run spaces in the United States. Founded in 1969, VSW is a Rochester-based arts organization dedicated to experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts. This new Regional Workspace Residency is offered in addition to VSW's [Project Space Residency program](#), which is open to national and international artists.

Selected photographic artists for this 3-month Regional Workspace Residency will develop detailed project and budget plans, professional development goals (i.e. crafting an artist statement/CV, website or portfolio development, portfolio review preparation). Selected artists will be provided with a \$1,000 stipend for supplies and \$1,000 for travel. Residents will be given access to the VSW workroom and darkroom and time with VSW staff dedicated to helping complete professional development goals and feedback on their photographic project.

Application Details

Application Period:

The application period for the Regional Workspace Residency, Cycles 1 and 2, opens February 12 and closes April 9, 2026. All applications will be reviewed by VSW Staff.

Regional Parameters:

Residency applicants must live full-time within the Greater Rochester region, which includes the following counties: Monroe, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

To Apply:

<https://www.vsw.org/residency/regional-workspace-residency/>

Questions? Email herneasedavis@vsw.org.

The program's inaugural Regional Resident was **Jackie McGriff**. Jackie proposed and completed a portraiture project focusing on the Black Alternative Community. Jackie developed her workspace residency project with consultation from **VSW Assistant Curator and Project Space Residency Manager, Hernease Davis**. Jackie's residency culminated with an experimental studio installation of the new portrait series and a public artist presentation about her project process. More information about Jackie McGriff and her project are available on her [Regional Workspace Resident page](#).

The Regional Workspace Residency is supported by The Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation.

About Visual Studies Workshop: Visual Studies Workshop nurtures experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts and builds community among artists and the public through exhibitions, publications, and residencies. VSW was founded in 1969 in Rochester, NY by photographer, educator, and curator Nathan Lyons (1930–2016), and became one of the earliest independent, not-for-profit, artist-run spaces in the country. More than 50 years later, the organization's mission is reflected in its core programs: VSW Exhibitions and Salon events, Project Space Artist Residencies, and VSW Press. In support of VSW programs, the organization holds substantial photography and moving image research collections and an art library for artists, critics, and the general public to explore, research, and reuse. vsw.org

VSW programs are currently supported by The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the New York State Legislature, The William and Sheila Konar Foundation, Joy of Giving Something, Monroe County NY, The Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and all our members and individual supporters.

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